

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND DIVISION  
ANNUAL REPORT -- 1967

To Miss Clara E. Lucioli, Supervisor  
Hospital and Institutions Department

INTRODUCTION

This year of 1967 has been one of considerable expansion with an increase over last year of 17% in the number of persons served, making a total of 3,737. This includes 133 in the new extended service to the partially sighted and physically handicapped.

The circulation has increased 12.7% with a total of 194,231 books and magazines in all media, including 3,202 reels of tape which is also a new service. The major task of the year has been the organization of the two additional services, integrating them into the basic scheme of work.

IMPLEMENTATION OF TALKING BOOK SERVICE TO HANDICAPPED READERS

While the service to the new group of handicapped readers follows the same pattern as that to any talking book reader, the smooth actualization of plans was the major achievement of 1967. Many elements were involved in it.

Public awareness of the new program came about largely as a result of the activity of the Library of Congress Division for the Blind and Handicapped at the national level: press releases, articles in the journals of professionals in health services, and the involvement of voluntary national health organizations. In the forefront is the Multiple Sclerosis Society which took on the distribution of talking book machines and interpretation of the talking book service, through its local chapters, to eligible clients.

Locally, publicity came about largely by word of mouth, the direct action of Cleveland Public Library staff in both Hospital and Judd Divisions, and alert visiting nurses, recreation and occupational therapists. The new service was featured in the 1967 I. Toomey Gazette, and the "News from the State Library" of the State Library of Ohio.

The distribution of talking book machines and eligibility certification in Ohio has been through the Bureau of Services for the Blind, and sub-agencies for this purpose in societies for the blind. They readily agreed to extend their services to include persons with partial vision. The service gap for machine distribution to the physically handicapped has been filled largely by the Multiple Sclerosis Society, The Library of Congress in response to direct application or referral, and the Cleveland



Library for the Blind which issued machines on an interim basis - 40 in all.

This experience was quite educational for the Library. It showed that certification can be quite a quick process, if doctors cooperate promptly, and if it can be disassociated from the important but deferrable social service procedures of the Bureau of Services for the Blind. It underscored the need for a "field service link" in library service to handicapped readers, like that provided by Home Teachers of the Bureau of Services for the Blind, and by Miss Thelma Emrick of the staff of the Cleveland Society for the Blind. This is particularly important for new readers; to demonstrate the talking book machine, and to interpret library resources and the procedure for borrowing books.

The inevitable lapses in a large service illustrate what can happen without good communication, and what the plight of the Library could be if machine distribution were a shipping operation only. A most disconcerting letter came in behalf of a woman after she had been borrowing talking books for two years, saying that she did not speak English, only Greek. In another case adult books were sent to an eight-year old child. And finally, while the book Sixpence in my shoe has delighted many women, this pungent remark certainly shows the need for information about readers' interests,

"Mrs. Y. did not enjoy the first record she received on baby care. At eighty, that is understandable."

On the other hand, after the Library had had the experience of issuing a number of talking book machines directly, it became evident that there is also confusion in a procedure that must refer an applicant for library service to an agency for the blind. This can also be a barrier to a person not legally blind, or to one who is working towards the acceptance of a disability. Most of all it caused the library staff to more fully appreciate what was already known: that the task of promotion, interpretation, record keeping, repair and servicing involved in the distribution of talking book machines is a big job in itself, requiring adequate staff and financing.

In 1967 the number of talking book readers served under the new program was 133: partially sighted - 31, physically disabled - 102. This amounts to 3.5% of all readers, and the circulation to this group was 2,029. In order to include them only slight procedural modifications were required, largely matters of record keeping. If the new service had been promoted actively there certainly would have been greater growth, but this must wait until planning for financing and organization of service on a State-wide level provides a proper foundation for expansion.

This planning task is the responsibility of the State Library of Ohio, with the advice of the Advisory Council for LSCA Title IV-B. The Head of the Cleveland Library for the Blind, and Dr. Ernest Miller, Director of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County which administers the Cincinnati Regional Library, are members of this Advisory Council. The



initial plan, completed at the end of 1967 by the State Library, was based upon a study by Dr. John McCrossan of Kent State University, and analyzed with recommendations by Dr. Raynard Swank, State Librarian of California.

### THE TAPE SERVICE

The magnetic tape service is coming along. This last year it was used by 209 readers who borrowed 3,202 reels. By the end of 1967 the tape collection included 73 Library of Congress and 24 locally produced tape titles. The circulating copies made from them required the duplication of these master tapes on 895 7-inch reels of blank tape.

A list of tapes on hand was compiled as of July and sent to all tape readers, resulting in a good number of requests. This list was also recorded on tape, and is available upon request.

Most of the tapes produced locally were recorded through Cleveland Taping for the Blind. This is a new volunteer organization with the threefold aim of recording tape for vocational, student and library use, and has operated under the dynamic leadership of Mrs. Madge Snyder. Its office is provided at the Sight Center of the Cleveland Society for the Blind, which gives it financial support and staff assistance through its Volunteer Services Department. Technical advice is given by the local Telephone Pioneers of America. The Library for the Blind serves as the bibliographic center, makes title searches and commissions tapes - many in response to requests of readers. The Division Head served as Chairman of its Advisory Committee during the first year of activity. The Cleveland Board of Education and the Bureau of Services for the Blind have been active on the Advisory Committee and many of the students served have been their charges.

In October a workshop for volunteers in the program was held at the Sight Center and the presentation was made by Mr. Bill West, Coordinator of Tape Volunteers, Library of Congress. The purpose was to help set standards and goals in recording, and show that Cleveland Taping for the Blind was a unit of a national program coordinated by the Library of Congress. Both the national and local program are vital to the Cleveland Library's tape service. This year the circulation of tape increased from 510 in 1966 to 3,325 in 1967, a gain of over 500%.

A third element of the taping service was the work of Mr. Marcellus Furlong and his associates of the Telephone Pioneers of America who have duplicated most of the tape for the circulating copies since the beginning of the program. Basic also is the addition of a new full time staff member, Mrs. Evelyn Einhouse, who also duplicates tape and types the labels, etc. She is responsible for the setup for processing and circulation. This work is under the general supervision of the First Assistant, Mrs. Blanche Rich, who then performs the vital work of selecting the books for readers.



## FINANCING

The total number of blind readers served increased from 3180 to 3594. This 414 plus the 133 in the extended program equals a net gain of 447 readers, as compared with 150 net additions in 1966. It is likely that the increase in blind readers, over twice that of last year, may have been stimulated by the promotion of the extended service and the doubled number of new talking book machines available because of it. All this new work could not have been carried without additional staff, nor without funds to pay for magnetic tape and contingent supplies.

This brought about a crisis when it was learned early in the year that the funds from the State Library would not cover the anticipated cost, and that no federal money would be available until the State Plan and application for LSCA Title IV-B funds was approved. Rather than refuse the readers waiting to be served in the two new programs - tape and talking books for handicapped readers - an appeal for emergency funds was made to two great Cleveland organizations that over the years have been concerned with library service to handicapped persons. Thus the new work was made possible through the support of the Louis D. Beaumont Foundation and the Cleveland Foundation, which each made a grant of \$5,000. These were one time only grants and the capacity for service of the Library for the Blind in 1968 and future years depends upon adequate and dependable financial support. The survey conducted in connection with the State plan demonstrated that costs were comparable or less than those of other libraries for the blind.

## READERS' INTERESTS AND COMMENTS

What the librarians think of as a "service" is an important part of the daily lives of those who use it. A boy in the summer Braille "Explorers Club" wrote,

"I've enjoyed the braille books that have been sent to me this summer. They have been so good that I can hardly put them down to eat."

A woman included this statement in her Christmas greeting to relatives and friends,

"I've read my first 100 talking books and started on the second 100. I can sit and knit six inch squares for a second afghan while I listen."

The fascination is never ending in what readers tell us of themselves and their reading. A man writes of his "banana-split personality", meaning no doubt the frustration of a vigorous mind no longer engaged in his profession. Another woman who had been busy baking, washing, ironing, canning and freezing all summer wanted books when the winter weather came and she had more time. An archaeologist who had visited Crete herself was enthralled with "The Bull of Minos". The book, "Love Songs of the Plains" recalled girlhood days in Nebraska,



"I was very homesick for the exhilarating clear skies and the sweet smell of the Prairie grass."

A typist with a sense of humor needed a book on typing. The fact that parts of her letter were on the wrong bank of keys was explained by the comment that it doesn't help when she answers the door.

Specialized reference service is sometime given, such as information to help plan a concert tour, a reading list of classics for a retired professor, term paper material. Several active persons asked for background information for speeches, and one of them said that he records his outline and notes on tape, wearing earphones as he talks, thus devising the equivalent of a teleprompter.

One of the most interesting developments has come about through the initiative of two women in different retirement homes. Mrs. A. is Chairman of the Talking Book committee of a Residents Association. She orders fifteen books at a time and circulates them to her clientele. Miss P. has organized a group of listeners who meet for an hour each day Monday through Friday to enjoy them together.

This is a welcome change from the kind of note that frequently comes in saying that so and so has moved into a nursing home, please discontinue the talking book service as it disturbs others. Braille readers have a great advantage here, like a man who had to cancel his talking books because of his "poor living conditions", but still wanted the Braille Chess Magazine. Poignantly he said,

"My thanks to the Library for more than fifty years of wonderful service."

#### BOOK COLLECTION

The number of copies of talking book titles is satisfactory and has been increased in anticipation of the growing volume of service in the next several years. However the character of titles selected is not entirely so. Our greatest need is for books of action, adventure, detective, western, pioneer and historical fiction - new titles that steady readers have not had, including older people who take 6 - 10 books each week. Mrs. Helen Paluszewski, who has major responsibility for serving this group of readers, has had increasing difficulty in finding books for people who read for entertainment since the demand so far exceeds the supply. The range of non-fiction titles is good. Requests for science, biography, religion, history, travel and current events come regularly, but here the number of copies greatly exceeds the demand. The number of copies received was based on our estimate, but it is hard to anticipate whether books in a given category will be entertainingly written, or if they will be heavy. This is more important than subject.



There is also a need for more juvenile fiction, particularly for boys. While there are requests for juvenile non-fiction, many students find talking books difficult to use in school assignments and prefer braille.

The balance of the braille collection corresponds fairly well to the needs of its readers, except for specialized student requests. More emphasis could be given to young adult material and books for the new Braille reader. Twin-Vision books are of great value

The circulation of braille also showed a good increase, attesting to the satisfaction braille gives to persons skilled in reading it. The Explorers Club for younger readers was again a success. The loss in juvenile reading is due to the fact that children who lost their sight through retrolentil fibroplasia are now in their teens and there seems to be some diminishing in the number of blind children. Requests for hand-transcribed braille came pouring in to the library after the listing of some recent additions in the BRAILLE BOOK REVIEW.

#### PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Library for the Blind benefited greatly from being included in the outstanding "Montage" production about Braille on WKYC-TV3. Several radio shorts also brought many inquiries, particularly one on talking books, in the Illuminating Company's Series, "On Location", Station WERE. The Cleveland Regional Library was featured as "Library of the Month" in the September issue of TALKING BOOK TOPICS.

The Division Head was invited to speak to parents and staff at the Toledo Society for the Blind, and to the Lions Club of Cleveland. A visit was also made to the Ohio State School for the Blind in Columbus. As always there were many visitors and the two newsletters evoked many letters and calls from readers. An important event was when the Advisory Committee for LSCA Title IV-B held its September meeting at the Cleveland Regional Library for the Blind to see the service in operation and at first hand.

#### STAFF

New staff members have fitted so well into the pattern set by a very efficient and highly responsible corps of workers that it is difficult to realize how many changes have taken place. Mrs. Einhouse, mentioned earlier, joined the staff in February to assume the duties related to registration, follow up of readers, and processing tape, with the guidance of Mrs. Blanche Rich, First Assistant who carries the responsibility for both these areas. In June Mrs. Margaret Stanavage resigned, having made a major contribution on a part time schedule, in the areas of selecting books for braille and talking book readers, in originating the Division's newsletters and Braille summer reading club for children, and in being a fertile source of workable ideas. Her position was combined with another part time one, last filled by Michael Granito, an able college student.



This provided a full time professional position for Miss Judiana Mehl who graduated from Library School in June. Miss Mehl has also taken over the cataloging of books from Mrs. John Carr, who previously was shared with Hospital Division.

Mrs. Gladys Miller, who does the catalogue typing, reports that simplified methods initiated early this year, and the use of the Dewey numbers on the Library of Congress catalog cards in place of the Cleveland Public Library's Brett classification have streamlined her work enabling her to manage the increase in the volume of other work. She is also in charge of braille magazines, and says with Samuel Turner, talking book magazine clerk that the reorganization of the magazine circulation method has reduced the work in spite of increased volume.

When Miss Constance Hurlbut went on part time the checking of returned talking books for disorder and damage was cut down. However, there were so many complaints that this work had to be resumed. She and Mrs. Betty Weber, with page help are managing to do it anyway. This year, Miss Hurlbut, as a volunteer, sold 495 tickets to The Home and Flower Show and gave the proceeds to the Library for the Blind.

In addition to the full time staff, a total of 37 people worked in the Division at different times during the year. Three of the capable page staff left before September and were replaced, 10 Neighborhood Youth Corps workers came and went, with 2 or 3 doing very good work. Eighteen Dyke College young men and women contributed their hours of community service, and several adults have volunteered their assistance.

The Division has been particularly fortunate in having the outstanding services of Mrs. Madge Snyder and Mr. Marcellus Furlong. She brailles correspondence, thermoforms and does many other things too numerous to mention. He had copied about 1200 reels of tape at the end of 1967 and since the beginning in late 1966. Both come in regularly every week.

And finally, the wonderful cooperation of the Volunteer Braille Service of the American National Red Cross not only added many valuable Braille titles to the Library's book collection, but made possible special services to readers ranging from a directory of agencies for a clergyman to a recipe for birds nest soup. Mrs. Caroline Skall has been Chairman, and specializes in fast, enthusiastic help in emergencies.

### GIFTS

Through gifts from friends and recipients of the service to the blind and handicapped many plus items are made possible. Gifts of money are used to buy the expensive binders needed in order to use volumes of hand transcribed Braille. Others have supplied reels of magnetic tape, periodical subscriptions, soundcriber machines, replacement copies of worn out or missing talking books, commercial recordings and the sheets of Brailon used to reproduce braille on the thermoform machine. These donors are gratefully listed in the appendix.



Two unusual gifts were most heartwarming and will be permanent symbols in the Library of the beginning and the culmination of a lifetime love of reading. Mrs. Carrie B. Turner presented the library with her original photograph of the gravestone of Louis Braille, which she visited on her trip to Europe. The students at Greenbriar Junior High School made a braille book to give to their library, for which they did the proofreading, duplicating and binding, presenting it as their "thank you".

### CONCLUSION

The passage of Public Law 89-522 marks a new era in library service to the blind and physically handicapped. The potential for this service is great and will mean continued expansion of the work of the Library for the Blind in the near future. The inclusion of partially sighted and physically handicapped readers as well as blind persons in the group served raised the question of what the name of the Division should be. It is possible that the best name would be one that placed emphasis on the media rather than blindness. A suggestion is, "Braille and Talking Book Library".

With this expansion a sufficient base of financial support is a mandatory requirement, for how can a line be drawn between applicants when all are eligible! It is expected that the funding of the new service will be provided by federal grants of Library Service and Construction Act Funds under Title IV-B. The amount and distribution is to be determined according to a state plan of the State Library of Ohio.

While the library service to the blind has always received its basic materials from federal sources through the Library of Congress, the allotment of funds is significant, signalling a new trend. This trend is the concern of the national government that all citizens have equal opportunity for library service regardless of their physical circumstances. It means as well that in the future library service to blind readers will be planned in relation to service to all handicapped readers. Moreover, since an objective in present planning is to involve local libraries throughout the region, it will be the increasing responsibility of the Library for the Blind to make contact and relationships with libraries and librarians throughout Northern Ohio. The structure for this will parallel the network of library service throughout Ohio as it develops.

As plans materialize it is good to see the increasing interest of public librarians in serving handicapped readers. This was highlighted in a most piquant fashion by an article in The Plain Dealer, Aug. 6, 1967, which featured the reminiscences of a former library page, William F. Lee, now 77 years of age. He said of the year 1908,

"I remember on Fridays I'd get blind people and take them to lectures and then take them home again on streetcars."



In those days the materials for blind readers were meager, but this footnote from the past is a precedent that points to our goal of combining the resources of specialized media with the best traditions of personal library service.

Respectfully submitted,

*Katherine Prescott*

Katherine Prescott  
Regional Librarian  
for the Blind

APPENDIX

|   | <u>Adult</u> | <u>Juvenile</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| I. BLIND READERS SERVED                   |              |                 |              |
| ALL MEDIA - OHIO                          | 3,501        | 93              | 3,594        |
| Talking Books                             | 3,221        | 91              | 3,312        |
| Braille                                   | 440          | 9               | 449          |
| Magnetic Tape                             | 207          | 2               | 209          |
| Large Type                                | 11           | 0               | 11           |
| <br>PARTIALLY SIGHTED READERS SERVED      |              |                 |              |
| ALL MEDIA - OHIO                          | 31           | 0               | 31           |
| Talking Books                             | 31           | 0               | 31           |
| Magnetic Tape                             | 3            | 0               | 3            |
| <br>PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED READERS SERVED |              |                 |              |
| ALL MEDIA - OHIO                          | 95           | 7               | 102          |
| Talking Books                             | 95           | 7               | 102          |
| Magnetic Tape                             | 8            | 0               | 8            |
| <br>OUT OF STATE BRAILLE READERS          | 45           | 0               | 45           |



II. CIRCULATION OF BOOKS AND MAGAZINES: TOTAL - BLIND AND HANDICAPPED

|            | Adult   | Juvenile | Total   |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Total 1967 | 186,279 | 7,952    | 194,231 |
| 1966       | 162,749 | 8,751    | 171,500 |
| Increase   | 23,530  | -        | 22,731  |
| Decrease   | -       | 799      |         |

|                             |         |       |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| Talking Books and Magazines | 170,313 | 3,934 | 174,247 |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------|---------|

|                |  |        |
|----------------|--|--------|
|                |  | TOTAL  |
| Magazines 1967 |  | 69,021 |
| Magazines 1966 |  | 57,904 |
| Increase       |  | 11,117 |

|                             |        |       |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Braille Books and Magazines | 12,754 | 4,018 | 16,772 |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------|--------|

|                |       |       |
|----------------|-------|-------|
|                |       | TOTAL |
| Magazines 1967 | 3,833 | 1,805 |
| Magazines 1966 | 4,046 | 1,413 |
| Increase       | -     | 392   |
| Decrease       | 213   | 179   |

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Magnetic Tape Books | 3,202 |
|---------------------|-------|

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Large Type Books | 10 |
|------------------|----|

Circulation to Handicapped

|                             |       |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
|                             |       | TOTAL |
| Talking Books and Magazines | 1,909 | 1,909 |
| Magazines                   | 226   |       |
| Magnetic Tape Books         | 113   | 113   |
| TOTAL                       |       | 2,022 |

Explanatory Note: The circulation to the handicapped readers is included in the total circulation. The figures for magazine circulation while listed separately, are included in the tabulation for books and magazines together.

Talking books are counted by "containers", Braille by "volumes", and Magnetic Tape, by "reel".



### III. BOOK COLLECTION

|                         | Adult         | Juvenile     | 1967<br>Total |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Talking Book Containers | 22,256        | <u>2,740</u> | 22,996        |
| Braille Volumes         |               |              |               |
| Non-fiction             | 13,976        | 1,074        |               |
| Fiction                 | <u>11,391</u> | <u>1,612</u> | 28,063        |
| Magnetic Tape - Reels   | 460           | 1            | <u>461</u>    |
| TOTAL . . . . .         |               |              | 51,520        |

### DONORS OF MONETARY GIFTS

Mrs. Lenore Beall, Zanesville  
 Mrs. Robert Housum, Cleveland Heights  
 Miss Constance J. Hurlbut, Staff  
 The International Lions Club of Cleveland  
 Mrs. George S. Kendrick, Chagrin Falls  
 Mrs. Milton A. Kramer, Shaker Heights  
 Mr. Howard S. Lutz, Ashland  
 The Oldenew Shoppes, Cleveland  
 The P.E.O. Sisterhood, Chapter AF, Ohio

In memory of: Miss Hazel Eaglen  
                   Mrs. Fanny Jones  
                   Miss Hazel Witt, By the Continental Book Club



CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND DIVISION

Active borrowers during 1967 distributed by Counties in Ohio.

BLIND READERS

|            |      |           |     |                 |       |
|------------|------|-----------|-----|-----------------|-------|
| Allen      | 45   | Hardin    | 7   | Paulding        | 3     |
| Ashland    | 15   | Harrison  | 11  | Portage         | 38    |
| Ashtabula  | 52   | Henry     | 9   | Putnam          | 8     |
| Auglaize   | 14   | Holmes    | 7   | Richland        | 5     |
| Belmont    | 33   | Huron     | 24  | Sandusky        | 28    |
| Carroll    | 5    | Jefferson | 29  | Seneca          | 30    |
| Columbiana | 62   | Knox      | 28  | Shelby          | 8     |
| Champaign  | 10   | Lake      | 74  | Stark           | 131   |
| Clark      | 18   | Licking   | 35  | Summit          | 223   |
| Coshocton  | 20   | Logan     | 18  | Trumbull        | 65    |
| Crawford   | 19   | Lorain    | 89  | Tuscarawas      | 40    |
| Cuyahoga   | 1131 | Lucas     | 250 | Union           | 9     |
| Darke      | 12   | Madison   | 10  | Van Wert        | 6     |
| Defiance   | 8    | Mahoning  | 134 | Wayne           | 39    |
| Delaware   | 12   | Marion    | 22  | Williams        | 16    |
| Erie       | 21   | Medina    | 20  | Wood            | 35    |
| Franklin   | 405  | Mercer    | 9   | Wyandotte       | 15    |
| Fulton     | 9    | Miami     | 14  | Out of District | 6     |
| Geauga     | 24   | Morrow    | 9   |                 |       |
| Guernsey   | 15   | Muskingum | 40  | TOTAL           | 3,594 |
| Hancock    | 29   | Ottawa    | 11  |                 |       |



HANDICAPPED READERS

I. PARTIALLY SIGHTED

|            |    |          |   |          |          |
|------------|----|----------|---|----------|----------|
| Ashland    | 1  | Henry    | 1 | Summit   | 2        |
| Columbiana | 2  | Lorain   | 4 | Trumbull | 1        |
| Cuyahoga   | 16 | Lucas    | 1 | Wayne    | <u>1</u> |
| Franklin   | 1  | Richland | 1 | TOTAL    | 31       |

II. PHYSICALLY DISABLED

|            |    |          |    |          |          |
|------------|----|----------|----|----------|----------|
| Allen      | 3  | Franklin | 11 | Mahoning | 5        |
| Columbiana | 2  | Guernsey | 1  | Marion   | 1        |
| Champaign  | 1  | Knox     | 1  | Miami    | 1        |
| Clark      | 1  | Lake     | 3  | Richland | 2        |
| Cuyahoga   | 47 | Lorain   | 6  | Summit   | 10       |
| Darke      | 2  | Lucas    | 4  | Trumbull | <u>1</u> |
|            |    |          |    | TOTAL    | 102      |

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Partially Sighted Readers   | 31         |
| Physically Disabled Readers | <u>102</u> |
| TOTAL HANDICAPPED READERS   | 133        |